

4TH U.S. CAV
NASHVILLE

DEEDS OF VALOR

FROM RECORDS IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HOW AMERICAN HEROES WON THE
MEDAL OF HONOR

HISTORY OF OUR RECENT WARS AND EXPLORATIONS

FROM PERSONAL REMINISCENCES AND RECORDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED
MEN WHO WERE REWARDED BY CONGRESS FOR MOST CONSPICUOUS
ACTS OF BRAVERY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, ON THE HIGH
SEAS AND IN ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS.

AMONG OTHER RECORDS THE STIRRING ADVENTURES OF:

Admiral W. S. SCHLEY
Admiral GEO. DEWEY
Lieut.-Gen'l NELSON A. MILES
Maj.-Gen'l WM. R. SHAFER
Admiral D. G. FARRAGUT
Admiral D. D. PORTER

Admiral GEO. W. MELVILLE
Lieut. G. W. DeLONG
General A. W. GREELY
Commander W. D. CUSHING
Hon. L. P. di CESNOLA
Gen'l F. J. BELL

Hon. WM. F. CODY, (Buffalo Bill)
Gen'l MARION P. MAUS
Gen'l ARTHUR McARTHUR, Jr.
Gen'l DELEVAN BATES
Gen'l JULIUS STAHL
Hon. JOHN C. BLACK

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INTRODUCTION BY

BRIG.-GEN'L H. M. DUFFIELD, U. S. V.

Illustrated

COMPLETE IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

THE PERRIEN-KEYDEL COMPANY

DETROIT, MICH., U. S. A.

1907

UNDER THE EYES OF HIS COMMANDER

NO LESS a personage than Major-General James H. Wilson was the sponsor for the distinction bestowed upon First Lieutenant Joseph S. Hedges, of whom he says: "He was as good a soldier as I ever knew and would never ask his men to go where he did not actually lead them."

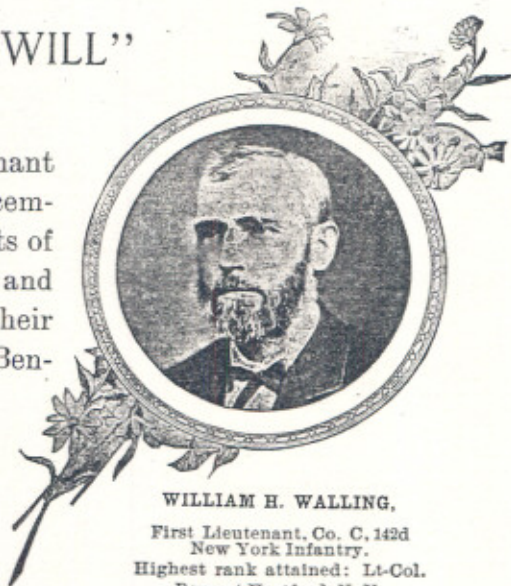
Lieutenant Hedges was a member of the Fourth U. S. Cavalry, and at Little Harpeth River, Tenn., on the evening of December 17, 1864, under the direction and personal observation of General Wilson, made a charge upon a rebel force which elicited the admiration of the Union commander, who after the battle "took great pleasure" in commending the lieutenant and personally secured for him the Medal of Honor.

The general himself gives this version of the noted charge:

"It was directed straight against a field battery in action at the center of the line of infantry in line of battle and was one of the best and most successful charges of cavalry it was ever my fortune to witness. Lieutenant Hedges, serving as my escort, rode along, leading his gallant regiment down the turnpike head-on against the battery, broke through it, sabred the gunners, captured or caused the abandonment of three guns, and continued his pursuit, spreading terror and confusion among the enemy until stopped by darkness. It is the only case I know of in which a cavalry regiment charged and broke through a Confederate line of battle composed of infantry and artillery in action and captured the guns."

"WE WILL, LIEUTENANT; WE WILL"

EYE-WITNESSES pronounce the feat of First Lieutenant William H. Walling at Fort Fisher, N. C., December 25, 1865, as among the most daring achievements of the entire campaign. The lieutenant's superiors and generals commanding were especially profuse in their commendation of his bravery, from Major-General Benjamin F. Butler, Brigadier-General A. Ames, Brevet Brigadier-General N. W. Curtis, Major-General Godfrey Weitzel to Lieutenant-Colonel Albert M. Barney, of the One hundred and forty-second New York Infantry, of which organization Lieutenant Walling was a member. General Curtis even went so far as to say that it was "one of the most gallant exploits of the war." In fact, in view of the universal praise, Lieutenant Walling's deed stands out boldly as the one redeeming feature in an otherwise unfortunate undertaking, as the first attempt to take Fort Fisher has been characterized.



WILLIAM H. WALLING,

First Lieutenant, Co. C, 142d
New York Infantry.

Highest rank attained: Lt-Col.

Born at Hartford, N. Y.,
Sept. 3, 1830.